

MINUTES
WOODSTOCK CITY COUNCIL
April 21, 2015
City Council Chambers

The regular meeting of the Woodstock City Council was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Brian Sager on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Sager explained the Consent Calendar process and invited public participation.

A roll call was taken.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Julie Dillon, Maureen Larson, Mark Saladin, Joseph Starzynski, RB Thompson, Michael Turner, and Mayor Sager

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Roscoe Stelford, City Attorney Ruth Schlossberg, Finance Director Paul Christensen, Community and Economic Development Director Cort Carlson, Opera House Managing Director John Scharres, Assistant Public Works Director Jeff Van Landuyt, Human Resources Director Deb Schober, and Opera House Building Manager Mark Greenleaf.

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Arleen Quinn

A. FLOOR DISCUSSION: Recognition of Councilwoman Julie Dillon

Mayor Sager recognized Councilwoman Julie Dillon and thanked her for her significant contribution to the city of Woodstock over a number of years. He noted that she formerly served as City Clerk from 2003 to 2005 and has served as a member of the Woodstock City Council since 2005. Mayor Sager further noted that she has served with compassion and professionalism and that she brought significant gifts, talents, and abilities to her service to the city. He recognized her connections with the school district, her strong dedication to family life and values, and her background as an accountant, all of which she has brought to the table as Council considered a variety of topics. Mayor Sager wished Councilwoman Dillon well as she moved on to other opportunities.

Those present recognized Councilwoman Dillon for her service over many years with hearty applause. Mayor Sager presented Councilwoman Dillon with a commemorative lamp in recognition of her service.

Councilwoman Dillon stated that it was an honor and a privilege to serve the people of Woodstock.

Public Comments:

Nicholas Kockler, 9293 Dirkshire Drive, Woodstock, thanked the Mayor and City Council for the opportunity to speak. He stated that at the last City Council meeting, the Resolution concerning Governor Rauner's Turnaround Agenda was tabled. He thanked the Mayor for explaining what this action meant. He stated, however, that the issue will not go away and detailed why he felt this issue is still important. He noted that this action is business friendly and will weaken labor laws. He stated that the Agenda will create divisions between today's workers. He noted his feeling that labor laws should not be diminished but strengthened.

Joseph Monack, 343 S. Jefferson, Woodstock, questioned the deforestation of Ryders Woods and asked why this is being done. Mayor Sager noted that the City has been working with the Land Conservancy over the past few years to rejuvenate the forest and remove invasive weed species which have taken over Ryders Woods in an attempt to encourage growth of desirable trees.

Andrew Celantano, 2161 Greenview Drive, Woodstock, noted he and other residents have been contacted by individuals perpetuating roofing scams and stated that he has passed this information on to the Police Department.

He then noted the efforts of the high school students who have been working on projects in conjunction with the City. He stated that the number of students will increase next year. He noted that the roundabout design the students did will be going to a national contest. In addition, the students designed and are building a solution to the path at the Donato Conservancy and will make a presentation to the Parks and Recreation Commission next month. He further noted that the students are working with Grant Writer Terry Willcockson to secure a grant to pay for the path.

Mayor Sager thanked Mr. Celantano and commended the students for their efforts.

Don Frick, 334 Jefferson, Woodstock, expressed his opinion that City meetings should be audio and video recorded for the community. He asked for any concerns the Council has regarding pursuing this. Mayor Sager stated the City has no concerns with this. He further stated that anyone can audio or video tape the meetings and the City would welcome that. He further noted that the City does not have the financial capability to support this but is not opposed to that.

In response to a question concerning whether the City would post this to the website since there would be no cost, Councilman Turner indicated that most individuals would not be able to download a two hour video. He stated, in his opinion, the City does not have the funds to spend on television-level productions. He further stated that he would definitely consider it if someone wished to stream the meetings, but that the City does not have the funds to facilitate that. He further noted that the meetings are totally accessible.

Mr. Frick then asked if the audio tapes that are currently made for the purpose of the Clerk's transcription of the minutes could be made available to the public rather than going through a FOIA. In response, Mayor Sager stated that this could be discussed but at the present time the tape is proprietary for use of the Clerk. He noted that the Clerk is statutorily responsible for maintaining the minutes of the meeting and the recording is for her use in fulfilling this statutory requirement. He noted that the tapes are not available to the Council any more than they are available to the public. He noted that Mr. Frick's question is on the table and may be considered in the future.

Mr. Frick then mentioned the Public Comment Ordinance that was passed last week, noting that it was passed to bring the City of Woodstock in conformance with State Statute. He is concerned, however, about a time limit of three to five minutes being set on the public comments. He expressed concern regarding this and asked why this time limit was put into place to limit discussion. Mayor Sager stated that the public has never been limited to the amount of time they are allowed to speak. City Attorney Schlossberg stated that the ordinance was drafted after looking at ordinances passed by other communities in response to the Attorney General's opinion. She stated that the City of Woodstock was already a model in its openness, but that, unfortunately, the PAC felt this is not good enough and the policy must be put into writing. She further noted that in a public meeting, public comment must be balanced with the public's interest in getting the public's business done. It was the recommendation of the City Attorney to include a time limit in the ordinance.

M. Saladin noted that it is his opinion that giving a deliberative body the ability to control this should the need arise is good. He further stated that the April 7 meeting clearly indicated that it is the City's intent to allow public comment, even if repetitive and lengthy.

Council Comments

RB Thompson noted that during the recent inclement weather, the sirens were effective.

J. Dillon stated she appreciated the communication between City Staff and Council members the night of the storm.

J. Starzynski commented that the choice of Joyce Nardulli as the City's advocate is an excellent one. He noted that everyone in Springfield has excellent things to say about Ms. Nardulli. M. Saladin stated that a number of Council members and staff recently went to Springfield on a lobbying effort on behalf of Woodstock, meeting with a number of high-ranking Representatives and Senators. He stated one of the primary purposes was to discuss Rt. 47 and to free-up money to get these improvements completed. He further noted that the new Secretary of Transportation had a keen ear toward the City's request.

M. Turner recognized Glen Wilson and Tony Walker from D200 who helped coordinate the last Council meeting at Woodstock High School.

M. Larson noted that the TAP meeting concerning the Old Courthouse project will be tomorrow from 5:00 - 6:30PM at the Woodstock Opera House.

Mayor Sager welcomed a group of Boy Scouts who were in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion by J. Dillon, second by M. Turner to concur with Consent Agenda Items C, D, E2, E5-E7, E9, E11

- RB Thompson removed Item B
- M. Saladin removed Item E1
- M. Turner, concurring with the request from D. Frick, removed Item E3
- RB Thompson removed Item E4
- Mayor Sager removed Item E8
- M. Saladin removed Item E10

In response to a question from Allen Stebbins, Mayor Sager stated that the consideration of outdoor dining and alcohol at 135 W. Washington, Item E2b, is a liquor request only and that the diagram included was a conceptual one only for the liquor license application. In response to a further question from M. Larson, Mayor Sager noted that the owners will work with Staff and, potentially, the HPC for the construction aspect of the patio.

In response to a question from J. Dillon concerning Item E-11, the petitioner affirmed that he understands that this is the third extension and that Council does not normally extend for a third time.

C. WARRANTS: 3659 3660 MFT 546

D. MINUTES AND REPORTS:

Community and Economic Development Report – March 2015
Police Department Report – March 2015
Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes – January 13, 2015
Transportation Commission Minutes – January 21, 2015

E. MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 44

2. Event Request and Outdoor Dining Request – Tequilaville

Approval of the following:

- a.) A Grand Opening/Cinco de Mayo event in the parking lot at 135 W. Washington to include the serving of alcohol in the outdoor event space.
- b.) Approval of outdoor dining and alcohol on the patio on the west- side of the restaurant

5. Schedule of Authorized Positions – Approval of the City of Woodstock's General Salary Range Table and the Schedule of Authorized Positions for FY15/16.

6. FY15/16 Water and Sewer Rates – Adoption of Ordinance 15-O-27, identified as Document No. 4, amending Title 6, Chapter 4 of the City Code pertaining to Water and Sewer.

7. Award of Contract – Water Meters – Approval to waive the requirement for competitive bids and award a contract for the purchase of a minimum of 650 Neptune water meters from Water Resources, Inc. for a total cost not to exceed \$150,000.

9. Purchase – Ice Control Salt – Approval to purchase bulk rock salt from Compass Minerals America, Inc. for the 2015/2016 winter season at a unit price of \$71.51 per ton.

11. Dakota Ridge Phase 3 – Final Plat – Adoption of Resolution No. 15-R-13, identified as Document No. 7, granting a third extension of time in which to record the Dakota Ridge Phase 3 Final Plat.

A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: J. Dillon, M. Larson, M. Saladin, J. Starzynski, RB Thompson, M. Turner, and Mayor Sager. Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Item B - Minutes of Previous Meeting

RB Thompson noted what he felt were significant deficiencies in the Minutes concerning item E11. He further expressed concern about the wording of the Agenda concerning item E12 and that none of the discussion of this item was included in the minutes. He feels that this is very unusual for the City of Woodstock minutes.

M. Larson agreed that it is unusual that the discussion was not included and that while she is aware that memorialization of the discussion is not required, she feels that it does not fit with the tradition of Woodstock. She noted that the circumstances were difficult and that the audio may not have been up to normal standards with the move to the high school.

Motion by M. Turner, second by J. Starzynski, to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2015 Woodstock City Council meeting. A vote was taken. Motion was approved 4-3.

Item E1 – Liquor License Amendment

M. Saladin called for a division of the question.

Motion by M. Saladin, second by J. Starzynski, to adopt Ordinance No. 15-O-24, identified as Document No. 1, amending Section 3.3.6, Classification of Licenses; Number and Fees of the

Woodstock City Code which increases the number of E-3 Liquor Licenses by one for Mixin Mingle, Inc.

A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: J. Dillon, M. Larson, M. Saladin, J. Starzynski, RB Thompson, M. Turner, and Mayor Sager. Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried 7-0.

M. Saladin recused himself at 7:55PM.

Motion by M. Turner, second by J. Dillon, to adopt Ordinance No. 15-O-24, identified as Document No. 1, amending Section 3.3.6 Classification of Licenses; Number and Fees of the Woodstock City Code which increases the number of A-6 Liquor Licenses by one for LJO Investment LLC d/b/a Porkies.

A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: J. Dillon, M. Larson, J. Starzynski, RB Thompson, M. Turner, and Mayor Sager. Nays: None. Absentees: M. Saladin. Abstentions: None. Motion carried 6-0.

M. Saladin returned to the Council Chambers at 7:58PM.

Item E3 – Liquor License Amendment

Don Frick, 334 S. Jefferson, Woodstock, stated he is approaching this from a policy standpoint. He further stated that he wanted the people's voice to be heard in the election and the votes to count. It is his opinion that this ordinance "makes things messy" from a policy standpoint because the City made a change to the liquor law that will allow a candidate to be able to take a Council position without having to relinquish his liquor license. He questions making the policy change after the election, stating that if this decision is not made this evening the new councilmember-elect would have to make a decision as to whether to take office and relinquish the liquor license. Mr. Frick stated that immediate action should have been taken on this in the fall and made public at that time. He noted that the timing "clouded up" the election process, stating that elections and public policy should never intermingle.

In addition, Mr. Frick questioned what he described as "subtle changes" between the City's Ordinance and the State Ordinance when it comes to the incidental sales of liquor and a small comment that adds railways to the ordinance. He stated many residents have concerns about liquor sales at the railway.

It is his opinion that this issue could have been handled more efficiently and that in no way should public policy be changed in order to seat a candidate.

M. Turner commented that there are two issues, one of which is insinuation that there is something untoward being done by the City Council. He agrees that perhaps the Code should have been updated sooner due to its antiquated nature, but that this was not done with the intent to sneak it through. Also, he stated that there is nothing here regarding Dan Hart's election, other than bringing the City's Liquor Code up to code. He further noted that Mr. Hart is an American citizen who got elected through a voting process and it is absurd to suggest otherwise.

Mayor Sager stated that it would have been appropriate for the City to amend the City's code to be in concert with State statutes a long time ago, but that liquor control both at the State and Local level is a fluid situation, with feelings concerning alcohol and support of business changing and evolving.

Mayor Sager further noted that nothing comes from the State Legislature to local governments notifying them of changes and the fact that municipalities need to change their laws to be in conformance with the State law. He further stated that there were 6,000 bills introduced into this legislature and that keeping up with that is a monumental task.

M. Saladin stated that until someone takes a petition out for office and files it, the City would not know this was an issue. He further stated that, had the City taken the action at that time, the argument could have been made that it was definitely a result of the election and that the City was assisting a candidate.

Motion by M. Turner, second by M. Saladin, to adopt Ordinance 15-O-25, identified as Document No. 2, amending Chapter 3, Liquor Control, of the Woodstock City Code.

A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: J. Dillon, M. Larson, M. Saladin, J. Starzynski, RB Thompson, M. Turner, and Mayor Sager. Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Item E4 – Annual Budget for FY15/16

RB Thompson stated he will not vote for the budget without the inclusion of the stone veneers on the walls around the Park in the Square.

Motion by M. Saladin, second by J. Starzynski, to approve Ordinance No. 15-O-26, identified as Document No. 3, adopting the FY15/16 Budget for the City of Woodstock.

Robert Beardsley, 1621 Ash Avenue, presented some facts concerning the artificial turf football field, a contribution for which is included in the Budget. He feels there has not been much research in this area but that there are several environmental considerations that should come first, including the infill that is used may contain heavy metals which can leach into the water table and more possible injuries to the athletes due to the artificial turf. He further noted that despite the comment made by the D200 representative that there was no increase in injuries, he feels that it is common knowledge that ACL sprains are 67% higher as determined by a 2012 NFL Study from actual game data.

Mr. Beardsley also noted that soccer players do not like artificial turf due to the increase of skin abrasions and burns that are more prevalent than on natural grass. He stated that the artificial turf retains heat from the sun and can be much hotter than natural grass and that periodic disinfection is required with chemicals because pathogens are not broken down by processes as they are in natural grass. He also stated that Major League Baseball has removed all artificial turf from their baseball fields.

Mr. Beardsley stated there has not been enough research in this area and that the environmental concerns should come first.

Mayor Sager clarified that there was discussion held at the Council Workshop that was open to the Public to discuss the proposed budget and this item was considered. He noted that the amount was reduced from \$150,000 down to \$100,000 and that the City would not necessarily automatically expend these funds even if the Budget is approved. This item will still have to come back to the Council for consideration and approval of expenditure. In addition, he stated that the Council indicated that it would not look at an extension of support for this project unless the School District is willing to contribute to the fund as well and that the City Council would not put any more money in than the School District is willing to contribute. In addition, this would only be approved if there is an agreement between the municipality and the School District that the municipality would have the opportunity to utilize the field as it would other recreational

facilities within the community. He noted there are many contingencies in place that would be discussed prior to the approval for expenditure later on.

Barb Gessert, 810 Gerry Street, respectfully objected to the D200 Renaissance Project going forward and specifically to the \$100,000 being funded by the City of Woodstock without community approval as a deciding factor. She stated she was not aware of the meeting mentioned by Mayor Sager and that parents do not know enough about the artificial turf to have an informed opinion on the project.

She stated that members of the community either haven't heard about the proposal or they do not understand the costs, maintenance requirements, implications for usage, or impact on the health and safety of the children playing on the field.

Ms. Gessert stated that it was her understanding that D200 has stated that funding would only come from private sources and that the school district would not provide any funding. In response, Mayor Sager noted that if this is the decision by the D200 School Board, this would certainly impact the City's decision. In response to Ms. Gessert's question as to whether this would mean no funding from the City if D200 does not provide funding, Mayor Sager stated that this was the discussion at the Budget Workshop.

Ms. Gessert talked about the goals of the synthetic field and the capital investment involved. She feels that the \$100,000 would put an undue burden on the City Budget. In addition, she stated that synthetic turf is made up of several layers of artificial blades of grass that are infilled with ground rubber made from scrap tires. She discussed her concerns with this infill.

M. Turner has noted that the City has nothing to do with the make-up and construction of the field and that it is a District 200 project. Ms. Gessert stated that it is her opinion that the City should consider the infill issue when considering whether to contribute to this project as, in her opinion, it involves spending City funds on toxic chemicals.

Ms. Gessert presented a report detailing the 30 chemicals that can be found in the ground tires used for infill, stating the list comes from an EPA study completed in 2009 which indicated that further study should be undertaken on this subject. It is her concern that this will expose children to carcinogens, stating that other cities are removing artificial turf fields.

Ms. Gessert stated that it is her feeling that the City should not have funding in the Budget for this project until more information is provided as to what will be included in the artificial turf and asked that the Council remove this item from the Budget.

In response to a question from J. Starzynski, Ms. Gessert stated there are a variety of infills that can be used in place of the crumb rubber. She noted that the only organic material that is used is cork.

Mike McCleary, 1550 N. Seminary Avenue Apt. I, Woodstock, questioned whether the City Council members have spoken with members of public about giving \$100,000 to another taxing body, specifically to D200 for the artificial turf field. He expressed the opinion that this makes no fiscal sense, especially when the City of Woodstock has no recreation programs on this field. He also stated that this may benefit a user group in the future but that the City of Woodstock should not bear this expense. Mr. McCleary further noted that \$100,000 could be more wisely spent on the City's park system through the Capital Improvement Program, stating that there were many projects that were not financed or not fully financed during this process, detailing some of the projects that could benefit from the \$100,000. He reiterated that it is his opinion that giving

D200 \$100,000 is fiscally irresponsible, given the many projects within the City's own facilities that could benefit from this money. He further recommended that, if the City chooses to give D200 \$100,000, it should instead be given to Woodstock High School's Engineering Design and Development students who are designing a pathway through the Donato Conservation Area, which would directly benefit the City of Woodstock by making this park accessible to the City's residents.

Joseph Monack, 343 S. Jefferson St., stated that he also opposes the artificial turf. He also noted that he objects to other portions of the Budget, noting that some things are more expensive, in particular the General Government Budget which contains a large increase over past budgets. He noted specific line item increases. He questioned whether the Council is really being good stewards of the taxpayers' money.

In response, Mayor Sager appreciated the astute observations but noted that some of the expenses noted were in different areas of the budget in the past and were transferred to new areas as a result of the new budget format and the transfer of personnel from one area to another.

R. Stelford noted that an increase in salary resulted from the inclusion of a new IT position and additional funding for a Deputy City Manager, which is a position that was traditionally filled in the past but has remained empty for the last couple of years. He noted that filling this position would safeguard the City should something happen to Mr. Stelford and is part of the City's succession plan. He noted that the increase in personal services was a result of the plan for certification training for a staff member and an increase in travel and training for trips to Springfield by not only City Manager staff but members of the City Council as well. In addition, the large increase in contractual services is a result of the proposed Special Census, increased marketing costs, and costs for the new fiber optic network. He noted that this network will result in savings which will not be realized until the end of the year. Mr. Stelford also noted that, in the past, the cost of the City's advocate was included in the Capital Improvement Program and that those costs have been transferred over to an operating cost within the General Government Budget.

In response to a question from Mr. Monack, Mr. Stelford noted that this year's budget proposed a 7.7% increase over last year. Mr. Monack stated he has a problem with all of the taxing bodies' increases as compared to home values and pay. Mr. Stelford discussed the new City project of billing for garbage service which resulted in an increase that will be offset. P. Christensen noted that the City is undertaking many CIP Projects as well.

M. Turner stated that if the CIP Budget and garbage billing is removed, the City's operating budget is about static. He further spoke to Mr. Monack's point regarding property values and taxes, stating that in the past four years the City has not taken PTELL, which is an automatic increase in property taxes that governments can put on top of homes. He noted that Woodstock was the first in the County to reject PTELL and has done so for four years, thereby holding down the City's taxes to a far lower increase than other taxing bodies. It is his opinion that the City of Woodstock has been fiscally responsible, stating that if the City's expenditures were compared to those of six or seven years ago they are substantially down from an operating perspective. M. Turner also noted that the discussion in which Mr. Monack described going over revenues and expenditures line by line was part of a four-hour budget meeting that held on Monday, April 13 and was open to the public and announced in the Woodstock Independent, with the Council going over the budget page by page, line by line.

Mayor Sager stated that the City's Budget was reduced significantly in response to the economic downturn but that everyone must recognize that costs go up. He also expressed appreciation to Mr. Monack for coming forth and raising these issues.

J. Dillon noted that the entire 500-page budget is available on-line and includes the detail that Mr. Monack mentioned, which would compare the line items to last year.

Mr. Monack stated that perhaps tabling the Rauner agenda was perhaps not a good idea since approximately 65% of the County voted for him and that expenditures cannot keep going up.

Glen Wilson, 2300 Serenity, stated he is a member of the Renaissance Committee, which is trying to improve Woodstock. He stated he is also Athletic Director for Woodstock High School and a 1989 graduate of Woodstock High School. He expressed his thanks for the Council's and the community's consideration of their proposal to bring synthetic turf to Larry Dale Field.

Mr. Wilson stated that this field has been called a football field because that is all that can be played on it. He further noted that after one rain, the field is not safe for play. It is the Renaissance Project's desire to expand the use of the field. He indicated that they have been investigating the safety issues that may come with synthetic turf and spoke of the advantages of synthetic turf. Mr. Wilson noted there are many studies on both sides of the issues and that they are trying to track the most recent studies. He stated that a study done by the Public Health Department of the State of Connecticut surmised that they have not found any more risk with synthetic fields. Mr. Wilson noted that parking is a huge issue when the Ryan Byrne Festival is held at the same time that youth football is using space in Emricson Park, as it is any day when there are multiple events going on. He stated that D200 and the City of Woodstock have had long-standing agreements for use of facilities, with the proposed usage of the artificial turf field being no different. It is his opinion that everyone should work together to use resources for the benefit of the Community, in particular the youth. He stated that he feels that this would bring exciting opportunities to the city of Woodstock.

Mr. Wilson stated that many communities in Lake County have installed artificial turf which has brought great opportunities to the residents and the youth of those communities and would be advantageous for Woodstock.

He again expressed appreciation to the City Council for their consideration of this program.

M. Saladin stated that there is further discussion and agreement that must go on with the District and that he looks forward to that. He also indicated that all of the questions that have been brought up concerning safety are appropriate and should be considered. He noted that it is up to Mr. Wilson and the Committee to make sure that the District and the Council are comfortable with this issue. He stated that at this point he would be in favor of it with the caveats indicated by Mayor Sager.

J. Dillon stated in response to Mr. McCleary's comments, that she wished to reiterate that this item must come back to the City Council and, if it is not funded for the Renaissance Project, she is sure that City Staff will come back with suggestions for other items should it not go through.

Noting that there is a motion on the floor for approval of Ordinance 15-O-26, adopting the City of Woodstock's FY15/16 Budget, Mayor Sager requested a roll call vote.

Ayes: J. Dillon, M. Larson, M. Saladin, J. Starzynski, M. Turner, and Mayor Sager. Nays: RB Thompson. Absentees: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried 6-1.

Item E-8 – Change Order – Water Treatment Plant

Mayor Sager stated it is appropriate to waive the bidding requirements and then extend the work as identified in the staff's recommendation.

Motion by M. Turner, second by M. Saladin, to waive the requirement for competitive bidding and to adopt Resolution No. 15-R-12, identified as Document No. 4, authorizing a Change Order for the First Street Water Treatment Plant Softener Repair Project resulting in an increase of \$8,294.92 to the contract amount.

A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: J. Dillon, M. Larson, M. Saladin, J. Starzynski, RB Thompson, M. Turner, and Mayor Sager. Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

Item 10 – Fire Alarm System

M. Saladin recused himself at 8:52PM.

Motion by M. Turner, second by J. Starzynski, to adopt Ordinance No. 15-O-28, identified as Document No. 6, varying building code provisions for property located at 1300 South Eastwood Drive.

A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: J. Dillon, M. Larson, J. Starzynski, RB Thompson, M. Turner, and Mayor Sager. Nays: None. Absentees: M. Saladin. Abstentions: None. Motion carried 6-0

M. Saladin returned to the Council Chambers at 8:54PM.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Downtown Perimeter Lighting

Mayor Sager noted that there are options available regarding the downtown perimeter lighting, knowing that it is necessary to replace the current lighting system which is becoming more difficult to repair with increased liability. He stated that Council was asked to look at the proposed lighting, in both a brighter and dimmer format, and to give opinions on their preference.

RB Thompson stated that it is obvious to him that the current system must be replaced. He has compared the bright proposal and the dim proposal and stated that he favors the dimmer proposal. He also stated there will be transition period but that he feels people will come to accept the new lights and that there will be significant savings with the new system.

J. Dillon concurred with RB Thompson, also noting the savings.

M. Turner and M. Larson expressed their support for the dim setting.

M. Saladin and J. Starzynski prefer the bright setting.

In response to a question from Mayor Sager, J. Scharres stated that dimmers will have to be installed to set the lights at the dim setting but that they could always be adjusted to the bright setting.

Arlene Lynes, 14300 South Street, Woodstock, asked about whether the lights were bright or dim on December 1 to which J. Scharres responded that they were bright at that time and that at a later date, the lights on Stage Left Café were dimmed at the request of the City Council so they could see the difference.

Ms. Lynes stated that when she first saw the lights on December 1, she was horrified. She agrees that changes need to be made with LED lights, but she is concerned that the proposed lighting looks industrial and does not look “homey.” She feels there are a lot of options for LED lights.

Mayor Sager indicated that many people spoke with him who did not like the bright light. They also asked him if the bulbs could be separated so they did not look industrial and look like a straight light bar.

In response, J. Scharres stated he has looked into this as a result of the comments and has found no product that has a larger spacing. It is his opinion that the only solution to this issue would be to have LED strip lights be custom-made for outdoor usage on the Square.

Mayor Sager indicated the options would be to keep the existing lighting until it fails, go with the product that is on the market, or wait until a product comes out that the City would consider to be more traditional and less industrial. He further noted that people become accustomed to certain looks and traditions and when these change there is a concern, but that the Council must consider what is best in terms of the economics, efficient, and energy savings also.

In response to a question from RB Thompson, J. Scharres stated that the individual LED bulbs would not burn out as the current bulbs do.

In response to a question from M. Turner, J. Scharres stated that the spacing between the LED lights is 1 inch and that the manufacturer did not indicate that he has heard these comments before. It is Mr. Scharres’ feeling that this is because the product is not traditionally used for holiday lighting, but is usually used for uniform lighting rather than decorative.

In response to a question from M. Larson, J. Scharres stated there is no way to block out some of the lights as the material is meant to prevent things from sticking to it.

J. Scharres also stated that some of the historic buildings are being defaced by the current system because the piping is visible year-round. He noted that the new system will be un-obtrusive and can be applied to the Opera House without being seen if it is not on. He provided further information on how the system works.

After further discussion, it was the majority consensus of the Council to support installation of the new system with the dimmer feature, with the feeling that this would provide cost and energy savings and longevity and that when the entire Square is lit with the new lights it would provide a different, but acceptable, look than is seen on just one building.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

While not a Future Agenda Item, J. Dillon acknowledged the \$80,000 grant the City secured from Major League Baseball. Mayor Sager agreed and congratulated City Staff.

Mayor Sager recognized Monica Amraen who was named the Woodstock Professional and Business Women’s Woman of the Year. He expressed thanks for her professionalism and her volunteer efforts.

Mayor Sager asked that Council consider holding a Council Workshop shortly after the new member is seated. It was the consensus of Council that this be held in May or June, during the daytime on a Friday or a Monday. Mayor Sager asked R. Stelford to explore dates.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by M. Saladin, second by J. Dillon, to adjourn the regular meeting of the City Council to the next Regular Meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 2015. Ayes: J. Dillon, M. Larson, M. Saladin, J. Starzynski, RB Thompson, M. Turner, and Mayor Sager. Nays: None. Absentees: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Smiley
Chief Deputy Clerk